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Keswick Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health,

John Patterson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1955

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspector.



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KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the Keswick Urban District, for the year 1955.

My thanks are due to the members of the Council and to the Clerk to the Council and his staff for their unfailing kindness and in particular to Mr. R. Lusher, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, for his help and co-operation.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN PATTERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres), 1,272.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1955)
4,760 (see page 4).

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953), according to rate books,
1610.

Rateable Value, £38,966 at 31/12/55.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £149/4/2d.

The Tables of vital statistics are set out below showing birth rates, death rates and rates for maternal and infantile mortality.

Crude birth and death rates are corrected by means of an Area Comparability Factor supplied each year by the Registrar General. They allow for varying age and sex distribution of the population in different areas and enable comparisons to be made with figures for other areas.

This year the factor for births is 1.00 and for deaths 0.79.

The total live births were 52, 8 more than in 1954, resulting in a birth rate of 10.9 per thousand of population (10.9 corrected). One of these births was illegitimate.

There was one still birth which represents a rate of 18.8 per thousand total births, as compared with a rate of nil in 1954.

The total number of deaths at all ages was 65 giving a death rate of 13.6 per thousand of population (10.7 corrected) compared with 12.2 (9.6 corrected) in 1954.

This increase in the number of deaths (7) over that occurring in 1954 was mainly due to deaths from diseases of Heart and Circulatory System.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

There was 1 death amongst infants under 1 year of age, which is an increase of 1 compared with 1954.

Deaths from cancer were the same as for 1954, none of these deaths being from cancer of lungs and Bronchus.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

| | | Total | M. | F. | |
|--------------|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---|
| Live Births | { Legitimate Illegitimate | 51 1 | 31 0 | 20 1 | Live Birth Rate (R.-G.) 10.9 per 1,000 of the population. |
| Still Births | | 1 | 0 | 1 | Still Birthrate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births, 18.8. |

| | Total | M. | F. | |
|--------|-------|----|----|--|
| Deaths | 65 | 26 | 39 | Crude Death Rate (R.-G.) 13.6 per 1,000 of estimated resident population. |

Maternal Mortality :—

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Childbirth) :

| | | | Rate per 1,000 total live & still Births. |
|------------------------|-----|----------|--|
| Puerperal Sepsis | ... | Deaths 0 | nil |
| Other Puerperal Causes | ... | 0 | nil |
| | | — | — |
| Total | ... | 0 | Nil |

Infantile Mortality :—

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Death Rate „ „ „ | | | | |
| All Infants per 1,000 live births | ... | ... | ... | 19.2 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | ... | | | 19.2 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | ... | | | nil |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | ... | ... | | 0 |
| „ Whooping Cough (all ages) | ... | | | 0 |
| „ Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea | | | | 0 |
| „ Cancer | ... | ... | ... | 11 |

KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

The area of the district in statute acres (land and inland water) is 1,272.

Social conditions and local industries remain as hitherto.

The Urban District of Keswick is included in the Lake District National Park (which was designated as such by the Parks Commissioners, January, 1951, and confirmed by the Minister concerned, May, 1951).

Meteorological Conditions:—These are shown in a report by Mr. Tom Wilson, Official Observer to the Meteorological Office and Air Ministry, and given at the end of this Report.

POPULATION

The population figure of 4,760 is given for the year 1955 by the Registrar-General and called by him the "Home Population"; on this figure the birth and death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases are based.

N.B.—The population figure for 1954 was 4,770.

VITAL STATISTICS—BIRTHS

Live-Births—There were 52 Live Births (31 males and 21 females) registered as belonging to the district; of these one was illegitimate.

The Live Birth Rate was accordingly 10.9 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 44 births and a rate of 9.2 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows:—

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Birth Rates, 1955—Cumberland | ... | ... | ... | 16.4 |
| Rural Districts of Cumberland | | | | 16.1 |
| Urban Districts of Cumberland | | | | 16.7 |
| England and Wales | ... | ... | | 15.0 |
| Keswick Urban District | | | | 10.9 |

As regards Births and Deaths the Registrar-General has supplied Area Comparability Factors—these allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas and are used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas. The factor for births is 1.00, the birth rate, therefore, remaining at 10.9.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1955

| Causes of Death | | | | Male | Female |
|--|---|-----|-----|------|--------|
| All Causes | | | | 26 | 39 |
| 1. | Tuberculosis Respiratory | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| 2. | Tuberculosis, Other | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 3. | (Syphilitic Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 4. | Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5. | Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 6. | Meningo-coccal infections | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 7. | Acute Poliomyelitis | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 8. | Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 9. | Other infective and parasitic diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10. | Malignant Neoplasm, stomach | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| 11. | „ „ lung, bronchus | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 12. | „ „ breast | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 12. | „ „ uterus | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 14. | Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | ... | ... | 2 | 5 |
| 15. | Leuœkemia, aleukoemia | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 16. | Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system | ... | ... | 4 | 6 |
| 18. | Coronary Disease, angina | ... | ... | 5 | 4 |
| 19. | Hypertension with Heart Disease | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 20. | Other Heart Disease | ... | ... | 6 | 12 |
| 21. | Other circulatory diseases | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| 22. | Influenza | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 23. | Pneumonia | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| 24. | Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 26. | Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 28. | Nephritis and Nephrosis | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 31. | Congenital malformations | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 33. | Motor Vehicle accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 34. | All other accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 35. | Suicide | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total 1. | | | | Nil | 1 |

| | | | | | Males | Females |
|---|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------|
| Live Births { | Total | ... | ... | ... | 31 | 21 |
| | Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | 31 | 20 |
| | Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| Still Births { | Total | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| | Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| | Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Population (for Births and Deaths)—1955—R.G. | | | | | ... | 4,760 |

Still Births—One still birth was registered, so that the Still Birth Rate, therefore, was 21 per 1,000 of the population as compared with no still births with a rate of 0.0 in 1954.

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births was 18.8 as compared with nil in 1954.

DEATHS

The number of deaths registered as belonging to Keswick was 65 (1954—55). This gives a crude death rate of 13.6 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 12.2 for the previous year.

The comparability factor given for adjusting the crude death rate (for reasons explained under Births) is 0.29. The adjusted death rate for Keswick Urban District was, therefore, 10.7.

Comparisons of crude and adjusted death rates are shown below:

| Death Rates, 1955. | | | | Crude | Adjusted |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|----------|
| Cumberland | ... | ... | ... | 12.2 | — |
| Rural Districts of Cumberland | ... | ... | ... | 12.3 | — |
| Urban Districts of Cumberland | ... | ... | ... | 12.2 | — |
| England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | 11.7 | — |
| Keswick Urban District | ... | ... | ... | 13.6 | 10.7 |

INFANTILE MORTALITY

One death occurred among infants under one year of age, so that the Infantile Mortality Rate was 19.2 per 1,000 births, as compared with nil in 1954. The cause of death was Broncho-Pneumonia.

No illegitimate infant death occurred, so that the illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births, therefore, was nil. The Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate births, was 19.2.

These latter rates were both nil and nil respectively, for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows:—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1955:—

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|------|
| Cumberland | ... | (approximately) | ... | 28.4 |
| Rural Districts of Cumberland | ... | ... | ... | 29.2 |
| Urban Districts of Cumberland | ... | ... | ... | 27.3 |
| England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | 24.9 |
| Keswick Urban District | ... | ... | ... | 19.2 |

SENILE DEATH RATE

47 persons had attained the age of 65 years or upwards. This number represents a Senile Death Rate of 72.3 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 75.8 for 1954 and 57.6 for 1953.

Out of the 65 deaths :—

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 10 (3m. 7f.) | persons died between the ages of 65 and 70 yrs. |
| 10 (3m. 7f.) | 70 and 75 yrs. |
| 15 (7m. 8f.) | 75 and 80 yrs. |
| 9 (3m. 6f.) | 80 and 85 yrs. |
| 1 (1 f.) | 85 and 90 yrs. |
| 2 (2 f.) | 90 and 95 yrs. |

VIOLENCE

The death rate due to violence (all forms) was 0.63 per 1,000 of the population in the Keswick Urban District. Below will be seen the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accidents, Other Violence and the Total Violence Deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates from each per 1,000 of the population, as compared with the previous year.

| | Suicide | | Road Traffic Acc. | | Other Violence excluding Road Traffic Acc. | | Total Violence | |
|---------------------------------|---------|------|-------------------|------|--|------|----------------|------|
| | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 |
| Deaths | 3 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 3 | 3 | 5. |
| % of all causes | 4.6 | 1.7 | — | 1.7 | — | 5.1 | 4.6 | 8.6 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population | 0.63 | .21 | — | .21 | — | .63 | 0.63 | 1.05 |

CANCER

Cancer proved fatal in 11 cases as follows :—

| System | Primary Organ | Males | Females | Total |
|--------------|---------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Alimentary | Stomach | 1 | — | 1 |
| | Caecum | — | 1 | 1 |
| | Rectum | 1 | — | 1 |
| Reproductive | Uterus | — | 1 | 1 |
| Glandular | Breast | — | 2 | 2 |
| | Pancreas | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Tegumental | Skin | — | 1 | 1 |
| Respiratory | Larynx | — | 1 | 1 |

This number corresponds to a cancer death rate of 2.3 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 11 deaths and a rate of 2.3 in 1954.

Approximately out of every 6 deaths of persons belonging to this district one was due to cancer (last year 1 in 5).

TUBERCULOSIS

(Vide also page 14)

There were no deaths from tuberculosis :—

| | | Males | Females |
|-------------------|-----|-------|---------|
| Respiratory Sytem | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Non-Pulmonary | ... | 0 | 0 |

The Tuberculosis (all forms) death rate, therefore, was nil per 1,000 of the population compared with .21 in 1954.

This can also be said for the death rate for Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.
- 2 One Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ralph Lusher, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., being also the Surveyor and Water Engineer.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council is the authority responsible for this important public service, taking over in 1948. Under their comprehensive Ambulance Scheme for Cumberland, adequate provision has been made for this district.

Speaking generally, other particulars relating to Health Services (e.g., Hospitals, Nursing, Maternity, etc.) remain more or less unchanged.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA WATER SUPPLY

The yield from the various supplies continued to be adequate at all times.

Clorination was continued during the year.

Fourteen samples of water were submitted for analysis during the year, twelve of these were regarded by the analyst as highly satisfactory and two were unsatisfactory.

The water is soft in character and lead pipes are not used owing to the liability of plumbo solvency. Copper service pipes are used throughout the district.

With the exception of 8 houses at High Briery, where there is a standpipe, all premises have a piped supply.

Concrete-lined spun-iron pipes are used when new mains are laid, in order that incrustation may be prevented.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No major extension of the sewerage system was carried out.

As pointed out in previous annual reports, the sedimentation tanks and filters at the Outfall Works are inadequate to treat properly the amount of sewage passing through and the effluent from the works remains unsatisfactory.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE

Two Karrier Bantam refuse wagons are employed, but one of these is used part-time on other work. Very few complaints are received and this service is generally satisfactory.

The system of disposal of refuse has been greatly improved during the year. Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, and a full-time attendant is in charge of the refuse tip.

Salvage of waste paper increased during the year by 50 % and 92 tons of paper was baled and sold for over £800.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article XIX of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1926.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|---------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Premises inspected during the year | ... | ... | ... | 150 |
| Nuisances or defects discovered | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| Do. | do. | remedied after informal notice | | 45 |
| Do. | do. | remedied after statutory notice | | 0 |
| Housing Inspections under Public Health or Housing Acts | | | | 76 |
| Factory Inspections | ... | ... | ... | 14 |

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

A total of 22 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector, and the 4 defects revealed were remedied by informal action. The following table shows the position in this district at the end of 1954

| Premises | Number | Inspections | Defects Found | Written Notices | Defects Remedied | Prosecutions |
|--|--------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority | 16 | 14 | — | — | — | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority | 43 | 8 | 4 | 0 | — | — |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out workers' premises) | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 59 | 22 | 4 | — | — | — |

(Section 1 refers to Cleanliness, 2 to overcrowding, 3 Temperature, 4 Ventilation, 6 Drainage of Floors, and 7 Sanitary Conveniences).

The above figures include 5 bakehouses.

Outworkers—Nil.

SHOPS ACT, 1934

Periodic Inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector. No action was taken during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

This Act came into force on 31st March, 1950, and superceded the Rats and Mice Destruction Act. Under the new Act full responsibility devolves upon the Council as far as the Urban Area is concerned.

The Council employees undertake treatment as recommended. The sewers were treated several times during the year and the refuse tip was treated 6 times; treatments were also carried out at 22 private houses.

HOUSING

Eighteen new Council houses were completed and occupied and a further twenty-eight houses were in course of erection on the new housing site at Latrigg Close.

The total number of Council houses now completed since the war is 153.

Five Private Enterprise houses were completed and occupied during 1954 bringing the total of new private houses completed since the war to 63.

HOUSING APPENDIX

STATISTICS

| | |
|---|----|
| 1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :— | |
| 1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 76 |
| (b). Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | 80 |
| 2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above (which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932) | 0 |
| (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... | 0 |
| 3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 0 |
| 4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 0 |
| 2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices : Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | |
| | 24 |

**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD
MILK SUPPLY**

There were fourteen registered milk sellers, six of these being producers and retailers, whose premises were in the Urban District. Inspections continued to be made periodically.

A large quantity of the town's milk supply is retailed by producers whose premises are situated in the surrounding Rural District. There were six of such producer-retailers during 1955.

Four licences have been issued for the selling of Designated Milk in the Keswick Urban District.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—The regular use of the two licensed Slaughter-Houses by the Ministry of Food ended on 12th August, 1950. After this date, dead meat was transported here from the abattoirs outside the district.

SCARLET FEVER.—There were no cases of Scarlet Fever notified. The case rate and death rate were respectively nil and nil per 1,000 of the population.

DIPHTHERIA.—There were again no notifications of Diphtheria; the case rate and death rates, therefore, respectively, were nil.

The immunisation campaign against diphtheria was continued as before.

During the year under review 22 infants under 5 years were given primary injections (two at intervals of a few weeks), several by their own private doctors.

9 children received a single re-inforcing dose (these are children who received the two primary doses 4 to 5 years previously.)

The co-operation of the local medical practitioners, head teachers, the district Nurses and, particularly, that of the County Health Visitor, Miss Horn, is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

It is considered essential to reiterate that sustained effort must continue to be made by all concerned to achieve the level of immunisation necessary among children generally and particularly in regard to infants under one year of age in the 0 to 5 years group.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—No notifications received again; the case rate for this disease (including Puerperal Fever) was, therefore, nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births registered during the year, the same as in 1954.

Again no maternal deaths occurred—corresponding, therefore, to a Maternity Mortality Rate of nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births, the same as in 1954.

PNEUMONIA.—No notification was received; but one death was registered from Pneumonia (all forms).

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.—No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during 1955.

There were again no notifications of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and, similar to the previous year, there were none of Typhoid (including Para-Typhoid) Fever, Encephalitis Lethargica, or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations, five cases of Pulmonary were notified, and 1 of Other Forms of Tuberculosis. 3 Pulmonary cases were admitted to Sanatorium. The above figures do not include 3 Pulmonary cases, all males, transferred in from outside the district.

The following table gives the number of New Cases and Mortality (all cases) during 1955 :—

| Age | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|--------------|-------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 year | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1—5 ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5—10 ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10—15 ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15—20 ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20—25 ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25—35 ... | — | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 35—45 ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45—55 ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55—65 ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 & upwards | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 2 | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 2.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1955 was as follows :—

| | Males | Females | Total |
|-------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Pulmonary ... | 18 | 12 | 30 |
| Non-Pulmonary ... | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| All Cases | 22 | 18 | 40 |

No action has been required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relates to powers regarding persons suffering from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory Tract, and in an infectious state and employed in connection with a dairy or the handling of milk or milk vessels.

With reference to the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, regarding compulsory removal to hospital or institution, no action has been taken.

B.C.G.—TUBERCULOSIS.—With the approval of the Ministry of Health in 1955, Mantoux Testing, Mass Radiography and B.C.G. Vaccination where necessary were offered to all school children in their fourteenth year. The organisation, administration and execution of this scheme were carried out by the School Health Service under the County Medical Officer of Health. The testing and vaccination in the schools in this area were carried out by myself.

It should be pointed out that testing and vaccination was only when the parents of the children gave consent, however, the response was most gratifying.

The result of the X-ray examination was noted before Mantoux testing was commenced, and the testing was done either at the clinic or at outlying schools.

The result of the initial intracutaneous 1/1000 Mantoux test (positive or negative) was read after three days and those children found to be negative were given B.C.G. Eight weeks after vaccination a post-B.C.G. Mantoux test was carried out and read three days later to determine if Tuberculin Conversion had taken place.

The total number of children in this age group tested in the Keswick Urban District was 44 and the percentage of positive reactors (i.e. those who have had contact at some time with the Tubercle Bacillus) was 24.5. This compares favourably with the results obtained in other areas of Cumberland.

| Area | 13 year old children (born 1941—tested 1955) | |
|-------------------|---|------|
| | % positive | |
| Maryport | ... | 35.2 |
| Workington | ... | 34.1 |
| Whitehaven | ... | 35.0 |
| Ennerdale R.D. | ... | 38.8 |
| Millom R.D. | ... | 42.4 |
| Cockermouth U.D. | ... | 37.5 |
| Cockermouth R.D. | .. | 24.5 |
| Penrith R.D. | ... | 15.0 |
| Penrith U.D. | ... | 22.6 |
| Keswick U.D. | ... | 15.9 |
| Average : | | |
| West Cumberland | ... | 36.0 |
| Cumberland County | ... | 30.4 |

Non-NOTIFIABLE ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Epidemics usually occur in conjunction with epidemics in the districts adjoining.

Influenza was prevalent only in mild degree during the year under review, and 1 death was attributed to this disease, so that the influenza death rate was .21 per 1,000 of the population.

Re Measles and Whooping Cough (which became notifiable as from 1st November, 1939)—There were no cases of measles or whooping cough notified.

The case rates of Measles and Whooping Cough (as per notification) were, therefore, nil and nil per 1,000 of the population.

No death occurred from either Measles or Whooping Cough (as in the previous year), the death rates were, therefore, again nil per 1,000 of the population respectively.

There were no school closures due to epidemic diseases during the year.

METEOROLOGICAL STATION

Height above sea level, 254 ft. Lat. 54° 36'N Long. 3° 9'W

RETURNS FOR 1955

| Month | RAINFALL | | | SUNSHINE | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------|-----|-------------|-----------|--|
| | Amount | Average | | Amount | Average | |
| | Ins. days | 53 years | | Hrs. Days | 53 years | |
| January | ... 4.72 on 15 | ... 6.17 | ... | 28.2 on 11 | ... 33.7 | |
| February | ... 1.69 on 15 | ... 4.47 | ... | 68.1 on 17 | ... 56.0 | |
| March | ... 1.38 on 9 | ... 3.77 | ... | 139.8 on 25 | ... 102.1 | |
| April | ... 1.99 on 15 | ... 3.05 | ... | 168.8 on 23 | ... 133.6 | |
| May | ... 6.08 on 20 | ... 3.23 | ... | 201.6 on 26 | ... 180.7 | |
| June | ... 3.24 on 17 | ... 3.21 | ... | 161.1 on 21 | ... 178.7 | |
| July | ... 2.63 on 3 | ... 4.19 | ... | 293.9 on 28 | ... 155.9 | |
| August | ... 4.36 on 12 | ... 5.14 | ... | 219.3 on 28 | ... 140.5 | |
| September | ... 4.14 on 20 | ... 5.11 | ... | 118.4 on 29 | ... 116.4 | |
| October | ... 3.44 on 22 | ... 6.07 | ... | 74.7 on 28 | ... 79.4 | |
| November | ... 2.20 on 12 | ... 5.73 | ... | 45.6 on 23 | ... 46.5 | |
| December | ... 8.28 on 22 | ... 6.52 | ... | 35.2 on 14 | ... 27.6 | |

Totals ... 44.5 on 182 1554.7 on 272

Average Annual Rainfall, 53 years, 57.83.

Average Annual Sunshine Hours, 53 years, 1246.5.

TEMPERATURES

| Highest Maximum (in screen) | Lowest Minimum (in screen) | Lowest Minimum (on grass) | Ave. Daily Temp. | Nights Frost | Wind at Gale Force | Snow Lying |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 51.0 on 24th | 15.0 on 14, 17 | 10.0 on 17th | 37.6 | 18 | — | 10 |
| 50.0 on 8th | 20.0 on 23, 27 | 12.0 on 17th | 33.6 | 25 | — | 15 |
| 51.0 on 14, 24 | 9.0 on 1st | 13.0 on 20th | 42.5 | 12 | — | 3 |
| 65.0 on 20th | 29.0 on 1st | 21.0 on 1st | 48.0 | 12 | — | — |
| 72.0 on 31st | 33.0 on 11th | 27.0 on 20th | 49.0 | 4 | — | — |
| 72.0 on 6th | 36.0 on 15th | 29.0 on 10th | 54.6 | 1 | — | — |
| 81.0 on 8, 28 | 43.0 on 1st | 41.0 on 1st | 63.3 | — | — | — |
| 84.0 on 24th | 42.0 on 8th | 33.0 on 8th | 63.0 | — | — | — |
| 77.0 on 7th | 43.0 on 15th | 37.0 on 15th | 56.6 | — | — | — |
| 67.0 on 11, 12 | 25.0 on 18th | 16.0 on 29th | 47.4 | 10 | — | — |
| 60.0 on 7th | 26.0 on 25th | 19.0 on 25th | 44.6 | 12 | 1 | — |
| 60.0 on 5th | 22.0 on 19th | 15.0 on 19th | 42.8 | 13 | 4 | 3 |

Average Daily Temperature 48.6 107 5 31

| Month | EARTH TEMPERATURE (at Observation Hour, 0.900 hrs) | | | | WIND | | | | |
|-----------|--|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | High- est 1 ft. | Low- est 1 ft. | High- est 4 ft. | Low. est 4 ft. | Calm | Quad rant North | Quad rant S'th | Quad rant East | Quad rant West |
| January | ... 44.3 | 34.0 | 46.0 | 42.0 | 10 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| February | ... 41.5 | 33.0 | 43.0 | 40.5 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| March | ... 40.0 | 33.2 | 40.0 | 39.5 | 10 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| April | ... 50.5 | 38.1 | 45.8 | 40.9 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 3 |
| May | ... 56.0 | 47.6 | 40.0 | 46.0 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 10 |
| June | ... 60.0 | 53.0 | 53.1 | 49.3 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| July | ... 65.8 | 56.4 | 57.5 | 53.3 | 18 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| August | ... 66.3 | 60.2 | 59.2 | 57.8 | 21 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| September | ... 63.0 | 55.5 | 59.2 | 57.1 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 10 |
| October | ... 56.0 | 42.0 | 57.1 | 52.0 | 10 | 8 | 5 | — | 8 |
| November | ... 49.3 | 41.8 | 52.0 | 49.0 | 17 | 3 | 9 | — | 1 |
| December | ... 48.0 | 36.0 | 49.0 | 45.1 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 12 |
| Totals | | | | | 131 | 56 | 68 | 42 | 58 |

ABNORMAL PRECIPITATION

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| November 2nd and 3rd, 1931 | 6.16 inches in 36 hours |
| November 3rd, 1931 | 4.86 inches |
| November 12th, 1938 | 3.37 inches |
| November 4th, 1926 | 3.30 inches in 9½ hours. |
| December 24th, 1925 | 3.52 inches |
| August 2nd, 1923 | 3.60 inches |
| July 13th, 1932 | 2.56 inches in 5 hours. |
| December 2nd, 1902 | 3.12 inches |

SUNDRY NOTES

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Lightning observed | | 5 days |
| Thunder heard | | 11 days |
| Thunderstorm with precipitation | | 7 days |
| More than 1 inch of rain fell on | | 9 days |
| More than 2 inches of rain fell on | | 2 days |
| Visibility less than 1,000 yards | | 5 days |
| Warmest day — August 24th | | 84.0 |
| Coldest night — January 14th | | 15.0 |
| Lowest Minimum (on Grass) | | 10.0 |

WEATHER OF 1955

It is singular that following a year with the highest annual rainfall for over a century we should experience a year with one abnormally low. Last year 80.5 inches of rain was recorded but this year the total only reached 44.15. During the past century the following records show readings less than 44 inches: 1887 42.05, 1889 42.74, 1902 42.94, 1919 43.94, 1933 41.44.

It is worth noting that 5.3 inches fell in the last fortnight of the year 1955.

Sunshine has given a remarkable record, 1554.7 hours being the year's total. Not since records have been kept has such a high total has been returned. In spite of long sunny periods there were no really hot days, the highest being 84 degrees on August 24th. In July 81 degrees was reached on the 8th, whilst the highest in May and June was never above 72 degrees.

The closing days of the year gave us three days gale.

JANUARY. A fine week followed by two really wet days. Snow then followed for ten days which lay on fields, streets and fells.

FEBRUARY. A wintry month. Rain showers in first ten days followed by snow showers each day during the next fortnight. The last few days were fine and a joy to curlers and children. A little skating.

MARCH. Children tired of frost, curlers tired of curling. A few more days snow, but apart from frost, not much of anything.

APRIL. Another dry month with frost in mid month.

MAY. Spring showers for ten days, dry for ten days then showers again to end of month. Dry.

JUNE. Normal rainfall and sunshine, a pleasant month.

JULY. Rain fell on first three days, following days dry and warm.

AUGUST. Mainly fine and warm, with a rainstorm on the 21st during a thunderstorm which registered 2.28 inches, another thunderstorm on the 30th gave us .64.

SEPTEMBER. Another pleasant month, rather showery but as "All was safely gathered in" farmers had time to attend Agricultural Shows. Keswick Show was spoilt by heavy showers. Beekeepers are always optimists. They have waited for the honey crops "of long ago" which were fast becoming legendary. This season has even surpassed the exaggerations of the past and the wildest dreams of present beekeepers, with record clover yields. Heather was of short duration and the honey yield poor.

OCTOBER. Early frost. Showers. Snow on 14th. Most people agreeing that our weather is wonderful.

NOVEMBER. Another dry month. Visitors still linger. The weather IS wonderful.

DECEMBER. Rain, snow and gales, typical winter. Fine weather forgotten. people are wailing "DID YOU EVER SEE SUCH WEATHER."

